IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 69, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Process 3: After addition of 2-bromomethyl-1,4-difluorobenzene (12.3 ml, 95.5 mmol) to a suspension of sodium 4-chlorobenzenesulfinate (19.0 g, 95.5 mmol) in butanol (200 ml), the mixture was heated under reflux for 5 hours. The solid thus precipitated was collected by filtration and dissolved in methylene chloride. The resulting solution was washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$, and concentrated. The solid thus obtained was recrystallized from hexane, whereby the title compound (12.3 g, 43%) was obtained as colorless needle crystals. ~~The filtrate was extracted with methylene chloride.~~

IR (ATR) ν: 3089, 2991, 2943, 1581, 1496, 1315, 1279, 1213, 1149, 1090, 1080, 1012, 958, 816, 779, 756, 729, 708, 646, 517, 469 cm^{-1}.

^{1}H-NMR (400MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ: 4.36(2H,s), 6.91(1H, td, J=9.0, 4.4Hz), 6.99-7.06(1H,m), 7.11(1H, ddd, J=8.3, 5.6, 3.2Hz), 7.45(2H, d, J=8.8Hz), 7.62(2H, d, J=8.8Hz).

MS (m/z): 303 (M^++H).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 491, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The 6-[2-(*t*-butyldiphenylsilyloxy)methylphenyl]-6-[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]-1-hexanol (447 mg, 0.719 mmol) obtained in Example 284 was dissolved in toluene (5 ml), followed by the addition of cyanomethylenetri-n-butylphosphorane (350 mg, ~~0.1.45 mmol~~ 1.45 mmol). Under an argon atmosphere, the resulting mixture was heated under reflux for 14 hours. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool down. The residue obtained by concentrating the mixture under reduced pressure was subjected to flash silica gel

chromatography. The fraction obtained from the hexane:ethyl acetate=15:1 eluate was concentrated under reduced pressure to yield a colorless oil (190 mg).